

Monthly Update – September 2011

# Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

## IMPROVED PRACTICES NET RECORD HARVEST

This September, the USAID-TAPP carrot demonstration plot in the Oldonyosambu area in Arusha experienced a record harvest for farmers who used good agricultural practices they learned from Northern Regional Production Manager Manfred Bitala. In comparison to their neighboring farmer's plot (control plot), Mr. Bitala reported the following results:

- *Faster crop cycle:* With the use of plastic row covers, germination on demo plot took four days while the control plot took 14 - 28 days.
- *Money saved on inputs; healthier, larger carrots grown.* By properly spacing their plantings, the demo plot used only 150 grams of seeds compared to the random plantings next door that used 250 grams of seeds. This also gave the carrots enough room to grow without being in competition with one another for nutrients and water.
- *Less time spent watering and water resources conserved.* Using drip irrigation, the demo plot farmers spent five hours watering in 12 days. Meanwhile, using a sprinkler, the control plot farmers reported that they spent 48 hours watering in the same 12 days. They also reported that much of the water was lost to the wind.
- *Easier, faster harvest with little damage done to carrots during collection.* Carrots on demo plot were planted on ridges for easier harvest while the control plot farmers had to dig carrots out to harvest them.
- *Increased profit.* Plant spacing, row covers and proper irrigation resulted in the demo plot producing eight bags of carrots while the control plot harvested four bags (80kgs/bag).
- *Increased profits from higher quality carrots.* Among the eight bags harvested on the demo plot, five bags were of Grade 1 quality, and three bags were Grade 2. The control plot collected one bag of Grade 1 carrots, one bag of Grade 2, and one and a half bags did not meet grading standards.

## GREENHOUSES GIVEN TO FARMER GROUPS

Construction has been completed on four greenhouses in Lushoto. Three greenhouses have been built measuring 52 meters long x 11 meters wide, and one was built measuring 28 x 11 meters. The Yogoi Youth Group, Maendeleo Farmer Group and two different farmer groups in Malindi all contributed to the construction of the greenhouses in a coordinated effort overseen by Fintrac Greenhouse Specialist Melvin Medina. The greenhouses will now be handed over to these groups, who will benefit from the increased quality and production levels of the vegetables that will



Photo by Fintrac, Inc.

Bags of high grade carrots harvested from a USAID-TAPP demonstration plot stand ready to be taken to market.

## Tanzania Agriculture Productivity Program

**"Increased food security through enhanced productivity"**

TAPP is a 5-year program implemented by Fintrac Inc. in conjunction with TAHA, the Tanzania Horticultural Association. It is designed to increase smallholder farmer incomes through enhanced productivity, crop diversification and improved market access.

Visit [www.Tanzania-Agric.org](http://www.Tanzania-Agric.org) for more information on upcoming activities and to receive copies of monthly bulletins and success stories.

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be grown inside. Seedlings are expected to be transplanted in early October.

### DRIP IRRIGATION TO HELP HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY

The installation of a pressurized drip irrigation system was completed for members of the Zanzibar Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS (ZAPHA+). Drip irrigation will ease the burden of watering and will help grow more productive vegetable crops. ZAPHA+ members now have a new tool in the fight against the epidemic through increased nutrition consumption and income generated from surplus sales.

Drip irrigation is an agricultural practice that USAID-TAPP demonstrates to farms and farmer groups that have the proven capacity to sustainably continue using the low cost technology. Currently, agronomists are conducting surveys amongst smallholder farmers in the Kilimanjaro region for the establishment of new drip systems. In the coming months, a drip irrigation demonstration plot will be established in Mijongweni, Hai district.



*Photo by Fintrac, Inc.*

A farmer installs drip irrigation pipes at a ZAPHA+ vegetable farm in Zanzibar.

### FARMERS LEARN THE BENEFITS OF BOOKKEEPING, OTHER GOOD PRACTICES

Farmer groups from Fuoni, Mfenesini, Kianga, Kisakasaka, Dimani, Unguja Ukuu and Meli Nne villages in Zanzibar received training on bookkeeping practices. Farmers were given record books and learned the importance of keeping records to monitor progress, record prices, expenses and profits, as well as to using the books to note successes and failures. Meanwhile, trainings on the proper use and application of different types of fertilizers, as well as compost preparation, were conducted to four farmer groups in Unguja Ukuu, Mpapa, Meli Nne and Mkwajuni villages.

### PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS DEFINE THE PATH AHEAD

USAID-TAPP and Volunteer Services Overseas facilitated the Horticulture Stakeholders' Workshop in Zanzibar with various government and private institutions in participation. Working together towards a common goal and in the interests of their members was the message stressed to the various horticultural institutions in attendance.

After a successful executive general election in August, UWAMWIMA held a monthly board meeting in Zanzibar to set the path forward for the organization. Members from USAID-TAPP were in attendance to help facilitate the meeting, in which the board made progress in developing solutions to pressing financial matters and prioritized other issues.

### HIV/AIDS TRAINING TO PEER EDUCATORS

In Arusha, USAID-TAPP's partner AIDS Business Council of Tanzania (ABCT) conducted a sensitization program for USAID-TAPP and TAHA peer educators. Seventy six peer educators from 13 different organizations received training on how to best manage HIV/AIDS programs within their organizations.

### TECHNOLOGY TOOLBOX



*Photos by Fintrac Inc.*

By taking time to evenly measure raised beds and planting seeds in uniform, evenly spaced intervals, farmers will be rewarded for their efforts with increased production numbers and healthier plants. Proper spacing gives plants room to grow, enabling root systems to spread out and obtain the nutrients and water they need without being in competition from other plants. The record harvest of carrots reported this month were planted at eight centimeter intervals in evenly spaced, raised beds.